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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday November 11, 1976 CI NIDC 76-264C



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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday November 11, 1976.

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CHINA: Foreign Policy

[] The new Chinese leadership's more open style in conducting foreign policy was demonstrated last week in separate interviews given by two of Peking's top officials. In talks with visiting French journalists, Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chan discussed a broad range of international issues in unusually candid terms. 25X1

[] Although the positions on major foreign policy issues were not new, it was the first time in many years that Chinese officials of their rank and authority had held such wide-ranging and seemingly frank discussions with foreign newsmen in Peking. The only apparent qualification placed on the interviews was that neither official would allow the use of his name in print. The official Chinese news agency nevertheless reported that the newsmen met with Yu on November 1 and with Li on November 2. 25X1

[] Li and Yu both focused on Sino-Soviet relations and took an extremely dim view of the prospects for any improvement. Both men abruptly dismissed suggestions that Moscow had adopted a "conciliatory" attitude toward China since Mao Tse-tung's death. 25X1

[] Yu said that the Soviets were not waving an olive branch, but a "poison arrow." He added that if Moscow really wanted to see an end to Sino-Soviet quarreling, it should "admit all its errors since 1960." Li, repeating Yu's suggestion, said the Soviet confession should be made "before the entire world." 25X1

[] Yu also used stiff language in his less extensive comments on Sino-US relations. He said Peking "does not expect anything" from a new US President "elected by the bourgeoisie." The vice minister added, however, that if the US took the initiative to improve relations with China, Peking would "follow that path." 25X1

[] Yu noted that Peking was willing to develop relations with any country on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. He rejected all suggestions that China was interested in foreign military aid, asserting that such 25X1

[redacted]

proposals underestimate China's own strength--almost certainly a reference to former defense secretary Schlesinger's recent proposals.

[redacted] Both officials expressed the usual Chinese unhappiness with US-Soviet "detente." Li said it "does not exist," and Yu charged that "certain people"--probably a reference to Secretary Kissinger--have not correctly assessed the Soviet threat, especially in Europe. Yu applauded those in Europe who were seeking to strengthen defenses against the Soviets. [redacted]

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POLAND-USSR: Brezhnev Lauds Gierek

[redacted] Soviet party leader Brezhnev has given his personal endorsement to visiting Polish party chief Gierek, who is leading a party-state delegation on an official week-long visit to the USSR. Gierek is seeking a public show of Moscow's political and economic support at a time when his regime is being severely tested at home.

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[redacted] In a Kremlin speech on Tuesday, Brezhnev referred to Gierek as the "true son of People's Poland," an "eminent statesman" of the international communist movement and a great friend of the Soviet Union. He endorsed Gierek's policy of "radical modernization of all Polish industry" and implied that Moscow would give some additional help. Brezhnev expressed confidence that despite "tricky problems" Warsaw would successfully implement its programs.

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[redacted] Gierek emphasized Poland's close and growing cooperation with the USSR and Poland's contributions to the strength of the socialist community. The official talks were concluded Wednesday morning with the signing of a joint declaration on cooperation.

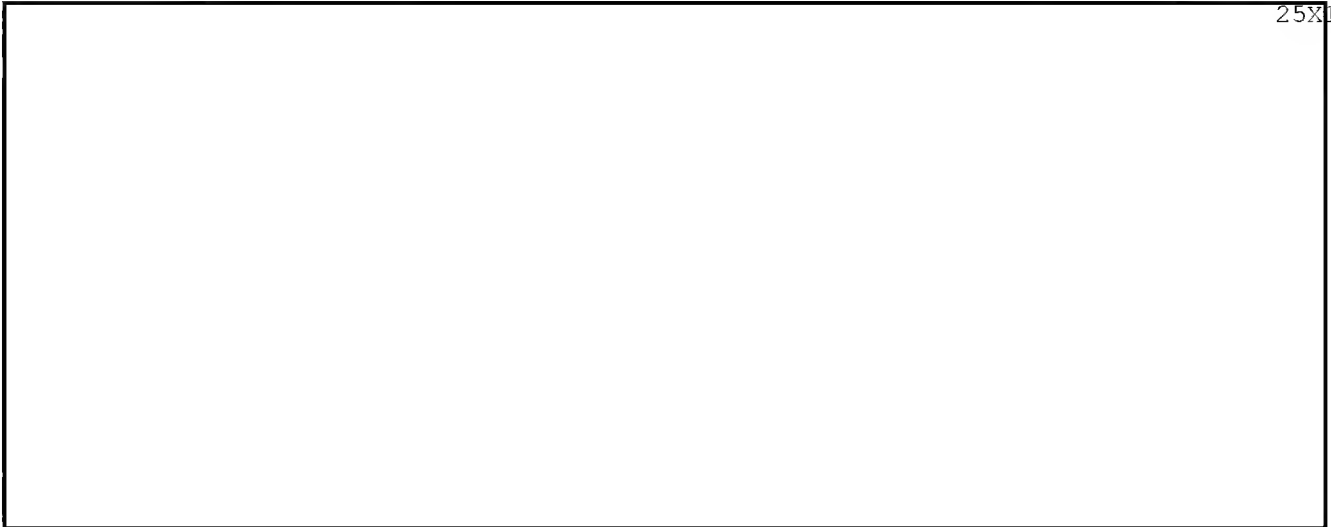
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[redacted] No details have been released yet on what the Soviets are prepared to do to ease Poland's current difficulties. A Polish diplomat had indicated earlier that "significant" economic agreements would be signed, and a Soviet diplomat in Warsaw had claimed that the Poles will get 90 percent of what they want. The agreements were probably hammered out during a visit to Moscow by Prime Minister Jaroszewicz on October 22. [redacted]


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PORTUGAL: Communist Party Congress

 The Portuguese Communist Party begins a four-day congress today. Party leaders apparently hope to convey an impression of responsibility and moderation in an effort to recoup some of the losses of the past year.


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 Party chief Cunhal told reporters this week that the congress will approve an enlargement of the Central Committee. The 22 voting members and 14 alternates currently on the committee are mostly long-time party stalwarts.

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 //The new members--who may number as many as 30--will probably be drawn from among younger activists, some of whom are more sympathetic to the independent lines adopted by the Italian and French parties than to Cunhal's rigidly doctrinaire approach.//

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 Cunhal nevertheless is in full control of the party. He is unlikely to soften his basic attitudes, although he has apparently been convinced that less aggressive tactics are necessary to counteract the party's loss of political power over the past year. Excerpts from his keynote speech already published in the Communist press exhort party militants not to depend on demonstrations and strikes to attain party objectives, but to work hard and use the party's talents to help others.

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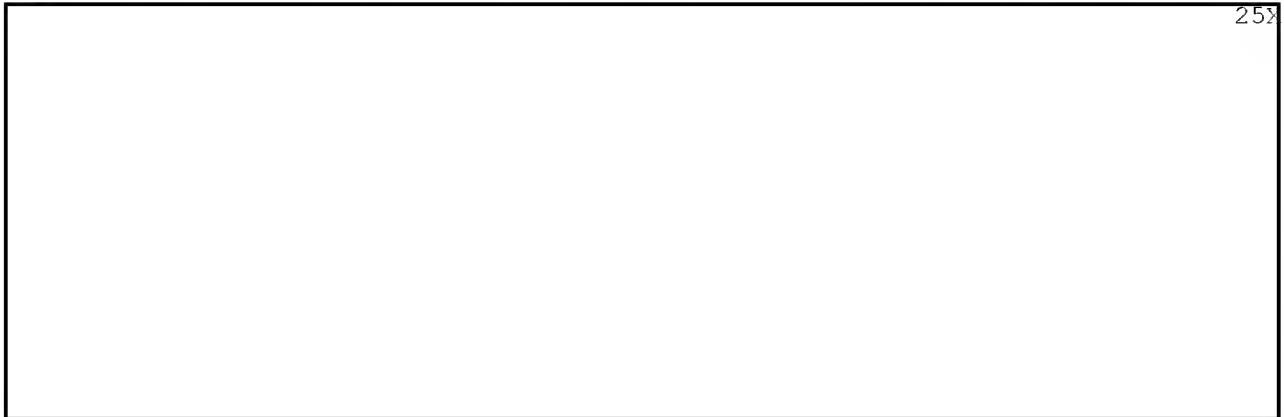


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 //Cunhal's remarks bear out previous indications that the Communists are concentrating on rebuilding their support in the hope of making a comeback in local elections next month, rather than mounting a campaign against the Socialist government. Many observers had feared that Communist-inspired protests would jeopardize government efforts to control organized labor and turn back agrarian reform excesses, but such protests have not materialized.//

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CIEC: Move to Postpone Conference

 //A movement to postpone the December ministerial meeting of the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation until February 1977 is gathering strength.//

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 //Interest in postponing the Conference into 1977 is apparent among less developed countries and several of the European countries. The LDCs believe their demands might meet with more success under a new US administration.//

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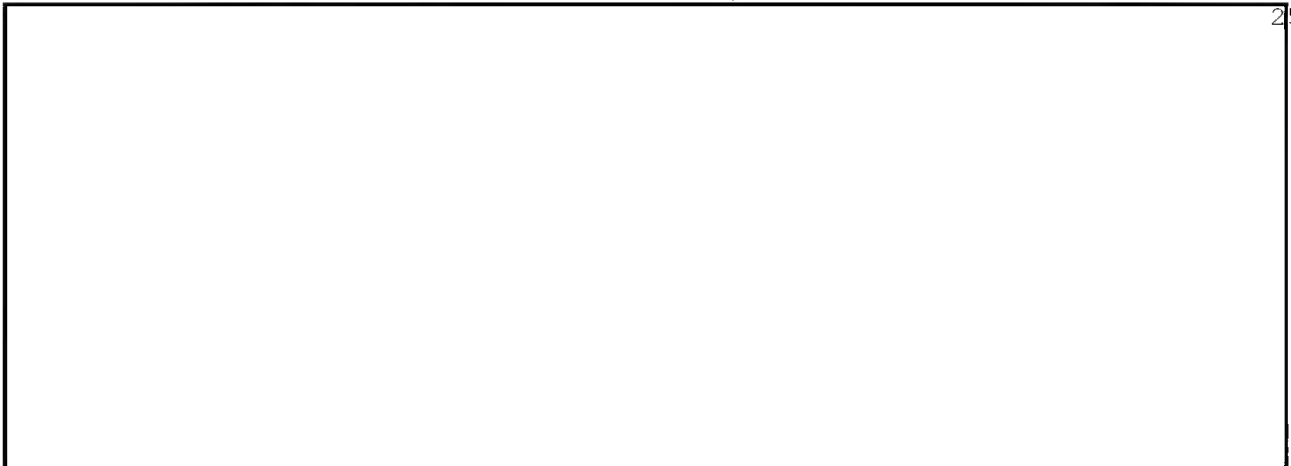


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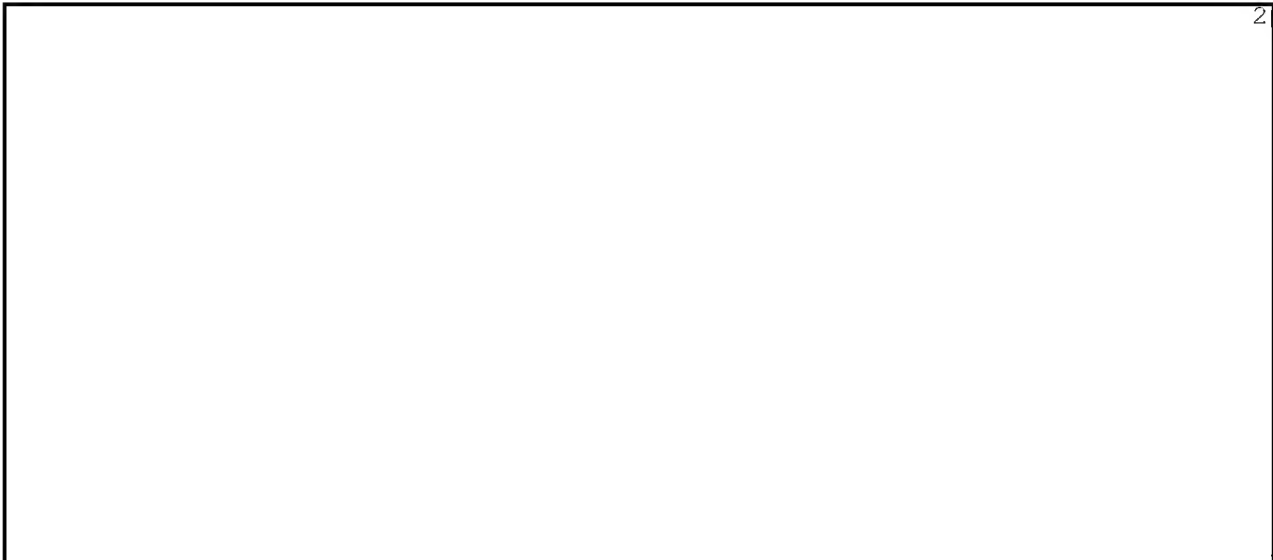


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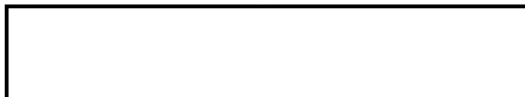
 //Efforts to extend the Conference notwithstanding, the developing countries remain disappointed over what they regard as the unwillingness of the developed countries to respond positively to their proposals. Consequently, they are determined not to embellish marginal results to give the illusion of progress. The LDC members reportedly will issue a declaration before the start of the next round on November 15, reiterating the need for positive Conference action on their demands. 

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LEBANON: Situation Report

[] The Syrian peacekeeping units that moved into Beirut yesterday evidently intend to take up positions along the confrontation line in the center of the city and in Palestinian-held west Beirut, after they have consolidated their encirclement of the city and cut off outside sources of supply to combatants on both sides. 25X1

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[] //Christian and Muslim leaders continue to order their forces not to oppose the Syrian advance. They appear to be maintaining a wait-and-see attitude, however, while they monitor the effectiveness of the Syrian troops in enforcing compliance with the cease-fire by both sides.// 25X1

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ALBANIA: Party Congress

[] Albanian leader Enver Hoxha emphasized the themes of national self-reliance and isolation at the seventh congress of the Albanian Communist Party last week, but the country's serious economic problems apparently dictated some personnel shifts and a note of cautious pragmatism regarding foreign economic contacts. 25X1

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[] At the national level, the leadership of Hoxha and Premier Mehmet Shehu appears to be entrenched. With 12 full members, the size of the Politburo remains the same. The number of candidate members on the ruling body was expanded to five and includes two new faces.

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[] The new candidate members, Lenka Cuko and Simon Stefani, are typical of young party leaders with technical experience and proven administrative ability on the district level whom Hoxha has advanced in recent years. Stefani has a strong economic background and once directed the Institute for Economic Studies in Tirana. He also led the Albanian delegation to a UN-sponsored economic meeting in Geneva in 1970.

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[] Elections to the Central Committee confirmed the effect of purges in recent years. New members include several officials who have figured prominently in Hoxha's apparent efforts to rejuvenate the party hierarchy.

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[] Hoxha delivered a 14-hour speech--spread over two days--that vigorously defended his leadership. Appealing to the Albanian people's strong sense of nationalism, he boasted that Albania's isolation protected the country from "the invasion of enslaving credits, tourists and spies, and decadent culture and degeneration."

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[] Hoxha nonetheless asserted that Albania would pursue economic and commercial ties with the West. He acknowledged China's extensive assistance to Albania's economic development but his remarks were somewhat restrained, probably reflecting Tirana's uneasiness over recent developments in Peking.

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[] Hoxha's reiteration of Albania's adamant opposition to the nonaligned movement will not sit well with Peking, which has been urging Tirana to adopt a more accommodating course. His comments on foreign policy also included the recitation of an "enemies and friends" list that ranged all the way from a predictable denunciation of the USSR to enthusiastic praise for progress in Albanian-French relations. []

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